

WASHINGTON, August 2, 2007—USDA Assistant Secretary for Administration Boyd Rutherford, his staff, and staff from the Office of the Chief Economist met with biobased manufacturers and agricultural industry representatives at the Biobased Stakeholders' Workshop on the status and plans for the implementation of BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup>.

BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup> is a mandatory preference program designed to increase the procurement and use of biobased products by Federal agencies. The Biobased Stakeholders' Workshop is an annual event coordinated by the United Soybean Board. This year's meeting brought together over 50 biobased manufacturers and industry representatives on July 26-27, 2007, at the American Farm Bureau Federation offices in Washington, D.C.

The theme for this year's meeting, "Growing the Federal Use of Biobased Products" fits with USDA's marketing campaign, Rutherford said "USDA's strategy is jointly focused on 1) establishing the Department as a leader in biobased purchases, and 2) providing support and guidance to other Federal agencies and to biobased manufacturers."



Assistant Secretary Rutherford emphasizes USDA's strong support for BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup>

The Stakeholders' Workshop included a series of presentations by Congressional staff, USDA personnel, and industry representatives. The conference afforded an opportunity for biobased manufacturers and industry representatives to increase their understanding of the program, to exchange ideas and explore solutions to challenges faced in

implementation of the BioPreferred<sup>SM</sup> program.

Subjects included the 2007 Farm Bill, the USDA model procurement program, updates on biobased product designations and the voluntary biobased labeling program, and strategies to increase biobased product procurement by the Federal government.

To obtain more information about the BioPreferred Program visit [www.usda.gov/biopreferred](http://www.usda.gov/biopreferred) or contact Shana Love, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250, Mail Stop 0103, Telephone:(202) 205-4008.